

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00216 280201Z

65/61

ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCA-01 PER-01 A-01 IO-10 AID-05 PC-01 CU-02

COME-00 TRSE-00 /073 W

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R 271345Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4753

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, BY, US

US-BURUNDI BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL

REF BUJUMBURA 134

1. SINCE MY MEETING WITH FONMIN BIMAZUBUTE FEB 25 (REFTEL), THERE HAD BEEN ENOUGH SMALL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING BURUNDI INACTION ON CERTAIN AID MATTERS AND FURTHER HARASSMENT ON TRAVEL, TO MAKE ME DECIDE THAT ANOTHER CALL WAS IN ORDER BEFORE I LEFT ON VACATION. FIFTY MINUTE TALK TOOK PLACE TODAY AND COULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE BEEN FRIENDLIER, AT LEAST IN ATMOSPHERICS.

2. ON TRAVEL, HE APOLOGIZED FOR FURTHER DIFFICULTIES, SAYING HE WAS PERSONALLY AT FAULT FOR NOT HAVING ISSUED NEW GUIDELINES EARLY IN MARCH AS PROMISED. HE AT ONCE TOLD HIS DEPUTY NDUWAYO (WHO WAS PRESENT) TO ENSURE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW RULES BY THIS WEEK END. THESE WERE THAT HENCEFORTH IT WOULD BE UP TO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WANTED TO GIVE PROTOCOL ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF TRAVEL. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSIES TO DO SO WHEN THEY INTENDED TO VISIT GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS OR OFFICIALS, BUT HE SAW NO REASON TO DO SO ON WEEK-END EXCURSIONS OR PLEASURE TRIPS. FURTHERMORE, IF BURUNDI EVER DECIDED TO DECLARE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUJUMB 00216 280201Z

CERTAIN AREAS RESTRICTED FOR SECURITY REASONS (AND HE COULD SEE

NO PRESENT BASIS FOR SUCH ACTION), LIMITATIONS WOULD HAVE TO APPLY TO ALL FOREIGNERS. HE COULD SEE NO GROUNDS FOR SINGLING OUT DIPLOMATS. (THIS SOUNDS LIKE DEFINITE REGIME DECISION, SINCE WE KNOW THAT MICOMBERO PERSONALLY HAS RECENTLY BEEN ACTIVE ON THIS ISSUE, BUT WE STILL CANNOT QUITE FORGET USUAL FRAILTIES OF IMPLEMENTATION MACHINERY IN BURUNDI.)

3. I ADVERTED TO EDUCATION MINISTER SIMBANANIYE'S STALL ON PEACE CORPS PRESENCE IN BURUNDI (BUJUMBURA 157), REGRETTED PROGRAM COULD AT BEST START IN 1976-7 SCHOOL YEAR, AND SAID MANY OFFICIALS KEPT TELLING US HOW MUCH GREATER ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE WAS NEEDED. BIMAZUBUTE REPLIED THAT, WHATEVER REVIEW OF ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAMS MIGHT BE UNDERWAY, BURUNDI COULD CERTAINLY MAKE USE OF AMERICANS AS INSTRUCTORS. HE SAID HE WOULD TELL EDUCATION MINISTRY TO GIVE US POSITIVE REPLY IN PRINCIPLE AND THEN TO USE NEXT MONTHS TO WORK OUT DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT.

4. HE SIMILARLY PROMISED TO JOG HEALTH MINISTRY ON ITS INACTION ON CONSTRUCTION OF MATERNITY CLINIC. HE SAID HE PERSONALLY KNEW OF URGENT NEED FOR SUCH FACILITY IN BURUNDI, WHERE CONSTRUCTION ENVISAGED, AND HE WANTED TO BE SURE MONEY WAS USED BEFORE WE TOOK IT BACK.

5. I NOTED THAT, QUITE APART FROM OTHER FACTORS, DILATORY BURUNDI BEHAVIOR EVEN ON MODEST AMERICAN AID OFFERS DISCOURAGED THOSE IN WASHINGTON WHO MIGHT CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF MORE SUBSTANTIAL BILATERAL U.S. COOPERATION PROGRAM HERE. IF HARASSMENT OF EMBASSY REALLY CEASED AND SMALL IF PROJECTS NOW ON AGENDA WERE EFFICIENTLY ADVANCED, ATMOSPHERE WOULD CERTAINLY BE MORE FAVORABLE FOR RE-EXAMINING U.S. ACTIVITIES, AS FONOFF DIRGEN NDUWAYO HAD REQUESTED OF DEPUTY ASST SECY JAMES.

6. IN VIEW OF SWEETNESS AND LIGHT DURING CONVERSATION, I RAISED LEADER GRANT PROGRAM, NOTED POSTPONEMENT OF SOME VISITS TO FY 76, WELCOMED FY 75 VISIT OF BANKER KASHIRAHAMWE, AND SAID WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DIG UP FUNDS FOR ONE MORE TRIP IF THERE WERE SUITABLE CANDIDATE. I ASKED HIS HELP (WITH TIME BEING OF ESSENCE) AND SAID PERHAPS NDUWAYO (HIS DEPUTY WHO HAS NEVER VISITED AMERICA) MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. HE SAID THIS WAS A POSSIBILITY AND PROMISED TO

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PAGE 03 BUJUMB 00216 280201Z

THINK OF CANDIDATES.
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